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CHINESE INSECT CONTROL DIRECTIVES

In a directive on insect eradication, K'ang Sheng, chairman of the Shantung Provincial Government, said that, while by 21 June, much had been accomplished in destroying insects in Shantung Province, yet the attaining of the goal of increased production in agriculture was imperiled by the injury done.

The following methods were outlined:

The cadres must personally show an interest and lead in the mobilization of the people. Insecticides and tools must be available for sale. Practical methods for insect eradication are also given in an article on insecticide preparation.

EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE ON INSECT ERADICATION -- Tsinan, Ta-chung Jih-pao, 21 Jun 52

In Shantung Province, the area affected by insect pests includes 50 hsien in six administrative districts, involving more than 2 million mou (one mou equals one sixth acre) of land. Locusts and cotton moths are among the pests found. The problem is so serious as to merit a special directive from the chairman of the province, for it may well affect adversely the aim to increase agricultural production for the year.

Over a million people have been mobilized by all levels of the government, forming a great patriotic movement. Considerable success has already been attained with the destruction of 80 percent of the insects, a remarkable achievement. Yet, much remains to be done because the insects keep multiplying. Some people do not realize the seriousness of the situation.

The task, then, is to make indoctrination for patriotic increase in agricultural production more universal and to mobilize the full strength of the people by organization, leading them in the work of total destruction of the pests. To accomplish this, the following should be done:

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1. Where the unfledged locusts and cotton moths are a serious menace, consider the catching of the locusts and the extermination of moths a critical task for which authorities are responsible. The local heads of the People's Government must personally go to the front lines of the battle against insects, giving practical direction to the work.

2. Authorities must fully initiate the movement and organize the masses of farmers into a concerted effort. This is a necessary step for final victory. To accomplish this, authorities must increase the indoctrination of the masses in patriotism and in the importance of mass organization.

3. Authorities must, at the time needed, have ready ample supplies of insecticides and tools needed. The supplies sold by the cooperatives and those under the control of the Insect Extermination Office should be available for purchase by cash or on credit, or ready to be loaned.

4. Authorities should increase instruction as to techniques and recommend methods learned by the past experience of the people.

5. Just now is the busy time of the summer. Summer reaping, summer sowing, weeding, insect eradication, and prevention of floods and alleviation of droughts, all come at this busy time. All classes of people and all members of the government must choose which work is imperative, and instead of sitting still and letting the opportunity slip by, they must destroy the insects and thus guarantee a bountiful autumn harvest. -- K'ang Sheng

PREMIER'S DIRECTIVE ON INSECT DESTRUCTION -- Nan-ch'ang, Hsin-nung ts'un Pao, 28 Apr 52

The following is the substance of a Directive by Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai dealing with the insect emergency and its control. The directive was published in the Nan-ch'ang daily newspaper Hsin-nung ts'un Pao.

More than ten kinds of insects have already made their appearance by the end of April. In Honan and Fingyuan provinces, the insect damage has already spread through 80 hsien. Any cadres connected with agriculture who had been engaged in the three-anti movement must return to their original posts of service. -- Chou En-Lai

EDITOR'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON PEST CONTROL -- Nan-ch'ang, Hsin-nung ts'un Pao, 16 May 52

1. For insects on hemp plants, one can use lime mixed with sulfur.

If this mixture is not available, use manpower, mobilizing the people to catch insects. Since it is the busy season for farmers, the wisest plan is to call on women, children, and the aged so as to save farming manpower.

Care must be taken not to be poisoned by the caterpillars. It is best to use fire tongs or to make pincers from bamboo sticks.

2. For combating moths, there are several devices.

a. Clear out weeds and grass near the cotton plants, where moths may hide.

b. Since the moth lion (ya shih) likes to eat these moths, protect the moth lions.

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c. Use one catty [one catty equals 1.3 pounds] of tobacco leaves. Immerse in 10 catties of cold water. Let this mixture stand for a day and then strain out the tobacco leaves. Take one catty of unslaked lime, put the two mixtures together, add 40 catties of water, mix thoroughly, and use as a spray. This will kill all insects.

d. Break an egg in a bowl. After stirring, add 1 1/2 ounces of cottonseed oil and 18 catties of water and use as a spray. It will prove very effective against moths.

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